EVEL
ONE

Friendship 友誼

THE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER OF THE TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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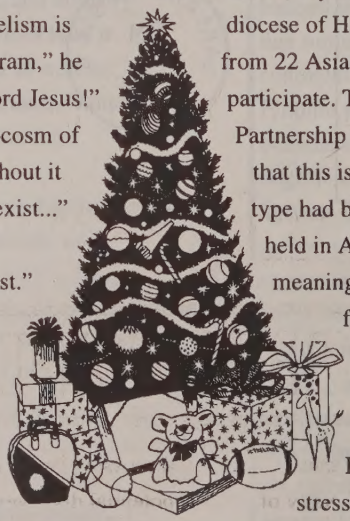
THE BISHOP'S LETTER

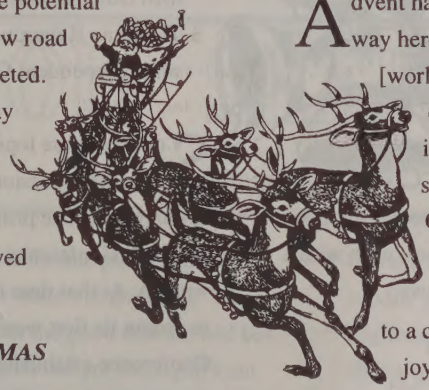
In the past two months, I have attended three important meetings. The first is the CCEA Bishops' Meeting which was scheduled from 8 October to 15 October in Kuching. Because of the haze the venue was changed from Kuching to Kina Kintabula, Sabah. This was my second visit to Sabah. My first was for the World Chinese Clergy Conference. Their enthusiasm for evangelism was our strongest impression. Sabah is the only place in the world where you can get a grant from the government to build up the Church and , hence, keep up the expansion of God's Kingdom. The speaker for our retreat was the Rev. John Taimoor who is a Muslim convert, which is very special to us. His focus was on evangelism and I would like to share his views on that subject with you. "Evangelism is not merely an activity and a program," he said. "It is the heartbeat of the Lord Jesus!" "Evangelism should be the microcosm of every activity of the church...Without it the Church has no legitimacy to exist..." "Evangelism is a sacred trust. A Christian is a trustee of God's trust." "Evangelism is a sacred debt, God makes every Christian a debtor to the list. A Christian is not debt-free until he shares the Gospel." "Evangelism is a sacred stewardship. Every Christian is a steward. Unless he is faithful in stewardship, he is unfaithful."



The second is a seminar on "Women and Environment" sponsored by NCCT, the Roman Catholic Church, and a group of women pastors from the Presbyterian Church. Being the president of NCCT, I was obliged to attend. At the beginning, I wondered about the intention of that seminar. As it unfolded, I began to realize the theme before us. It said that the world trusted to us by God has been exploited by men, now it is time to help the world recover with the tender character of women - Care and Love instead of exploitation and manipulation. That is very new to me.

The last, but not the least, one is a Consultation sponsored by CMS [Church Missionary Society] Britain and hosted by the diocese of Hong Kong and Macau. Delegates from 22 Asian countries were invited to participate. The theme was "Mission and Partnership in a Time of Change". We were told that this is the first time a consultation of this type had been held outside England. It was held in Asia. That has significant symbolic meaning. All agreed that the world centers for economy and religion, have shifted gradually to Asia. That shift is continuing. Therefore, the 21st century is the century of Asia. Bishop Kuang of Hong Kong stressed strongly that the potential of the Anglican Communion is in Asia as far as people, finance, and culture is concerned. In this kind of

shift, strategies for mission, partnership and theological education must certainly have to be reoriented. All agreed that Christians in Asia have to bear more responsibility for church mission in the 21st century. I felt much privileged to be able to attend this consultation and once again experience the future potential of Hong Kong after the new road and new airport are completed. We sincerely hope and pray that the formation of Hong Kong Province within the Anglican Communion can be achieved next year.



ADVENT* and *CHRISTMAS

Judgment is one of the major themes for Advent season. It is relevant to what is happening in this part of the world. We see the haze, the currency and financial crisis, and the turnover of local elections that recently happened in Taiwan. We are all under God's judgment even though the world around us is secular. God is always in charge. How do Christians respond to this situation? The Collect of the second Sunday of Advent indicates clearly that God sent his prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. We therefore have to heed their warning and forsake our sins. We all are part of what happened. Therefore, we need to take Advent as a season of repentance, and orient our life according to God's will for us in the year to come.

Advent has come and Christmas is on it's way here. Yet in the commercial cycle [world], Christmas is always celebrated even before the Advent because it is a commercial promotion, very self-interest oriented. The Christmas they celebrate is Christmas without Christ. Nevertheless, the promotion will, to a certain degree, create a happy and joyous atmosphere for the society. For Christians, this is an opportunity to evangelize, to share the good news with people around us. Christmas should not be a family matter only, it is a celebration for all the people. Thence, it is a season for sharing.

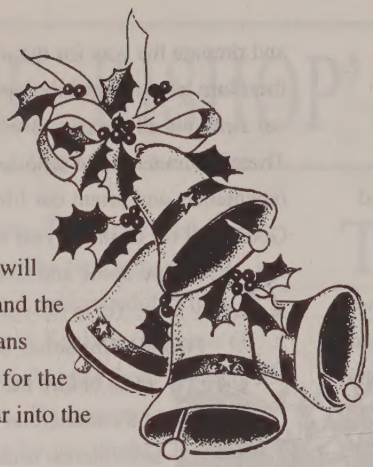
Grace and I take this opportunity to wish you all the merriest, most joyous, most sharing Christmas you have yet had. Our prayers will be with you all through the Advent and Christmas seasons and into the New Year in Christ.

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE

The bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion will meet at the University of Kent in England July 18 - August 9, 1997, for the Lambeth Conference. This conference is held once every ten years for the purpose of discussing issues of mission, change and potential divisiveness within the Church family.

The 1998 Conference will address many of the problems facing the world from the Anglican perspective of scripture, tradition, and

reason. This is a consultative and study group, NOT a legislative body. Nonetheless, its discussions and recommendations will shape our church and the lives of all Anglicans and Episcopalians for the next decade and far into the next century.



The areas of work and discussions have been divided into four main sections, each with a series of themes. They are as follows:

CALLED TO FULL HUMANITY

1. Human Rights and Human Dignity - Racism, Ethnicity and Nationalism
2. The Environment
3. Human Sexuality
4. Modern Technology
5. Euthanasia
6. International Debt and Economic Justice

CALLED TO LIVE AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

1. Called by God
2. Called to Live the Good News
3. Called to Proclaim the Good News

CALLED TO BE A FAITHFUL CHURCH IN A PLURAL WORLD

1. The Experience of Unity and Diversity
2. Diversity and Koinonia[Triune God]
3. Unity and Diversity in the People of God
4. Living Faithfully with Diversity
5. Diversity and Interdependence
6. Challenges and Opportunities: The Ordered Life of the Christian Community

CALLED TO BE ONE

1. Toward a Vision of the Unity We Seek: Making Visible the Unity We Share
2. Convergence in Faith and Order: Dialogues with Other Churches
3. Anglican Relations with New Churches and Independent Christian Groups

Some of these topics carry with them incredible passion and the potential of divisiveness. The primary topic of the 1988 Lambeth Conference was the ordination of women. At that time the United States proposed to ordain its first woman priest. The Lambeth Conference established guidelines by which dioceses on both sides of this issue would recognize and respect the positions and authorities of those on the other ,and bishops and clergy would respect diverse positions within a diocese. The Eames Comission has studied this issue for a decade as it unfolds. In the next issue we will summarize the Eames Report for much of it is likely to used as a model in dealing with other issues of human sexuality as they arise at this conference. Certainly issues of homosexuality, polygamy, abortion, same-sex marriages, sexual abuse and inequitable treatment of the sexes under the law will be discussed under the general topics of human sexuality.

Jurisdiction and authority issues will also be controversial.

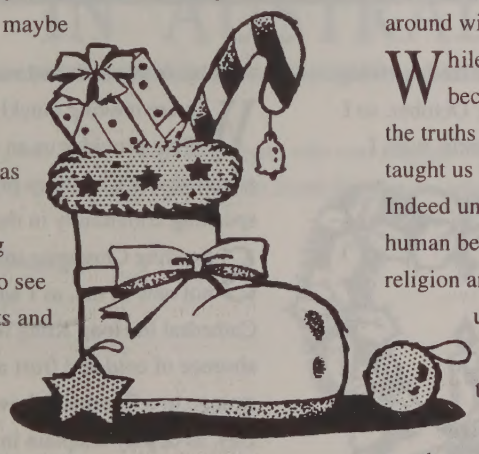
Scriptural issues may become a very hot topic. Fundamentalism has appeared within the Anglican community and will be applied to all these topics.

Issues of family, cross-cultural issues, racial and national issues all impact the mission of the church as we approach the year 2000. The next issue of Friendship will deal with some of these issues in more depth. The church worldwide has studied them. The Taiwan clergy and laity responded to Lambeth questionaires and we will summarize their findings. We invite your commentss and articles on any of these issues.

GOOD SHEPHERD

by
Graham Doyle

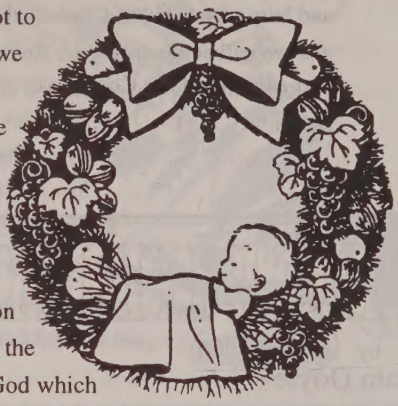
When you move from one place to another, it is hard not to make comparisons. What comes to mind are both the good and the bad but what immediately stands out are the significant and personal things. When I took up my post in Yugoslavia in 1991 a civil war began. Now, having just come to Taiwan, there is a financial crisis in Asia. Maybe someone is telling me something or maybe I should go and hide!



On route to Taiwan I was able to spend a weekend in Hong Kong. I wanted to see a few of the sights and so I caught the Underground and realized when I got in the carriage I was the alien. It was a new feeling for me and it comes to anyone who leaves one culture to live in another one.. Personally, I had felt like that before traveling around. My conclusion is that this can be a very positive experience if you can subdue your immediate fears, at least at the beginning. Suddenly everything that is new shows forth a whole panorama of educational developments as a process for progress. If you are able to take them in and learn from them then your stay within your new environment can be not only positive for your own self but for those around with whom you will be mixing.

While this is going on, new people are becoming friends. As a Christian one of the truths which expands our faith is that Jesus taught us to see in every person a neighbor. Indeed unless one can see each person as another human being, then the difference between our religion and politics can never be fully understood. Moving out of one's home culture should bring this home to us with the truth that Christ's message is a spiritual one. To live in another culture actualizes the opportunity to understand what good news it is to follow the teachings of Jesus, and to realize how radical that teaching was and is. For unless we see and feel this universal truth that we are all human

beings and that the differences belong to a culture and not to religion then we shall never understand the uniqueness of Christianity.



At Advent we reflect upon the coming of the Kingdom of God which has a unique interpretation for Christians. On my part thinking about its meaning has a positive comparison with arriving in Taipei. This new opportunity for service focuses my attention in a timely way on what the Advent season actually should mean and redirects me back to the basic universal and inclusive truths of the Gospel of the Christ.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 7	9AM Stewardship Sunday
	6PM Advent/Christmas Carols
	[followed by mulled wine and mince pies]
December 14	9AM Christingle Children's Eucharist
December 24	10PM Combined Chinese/English Service
December 25	9AM Holy Eucharist
December 28	10:30AM Combined Chinese English Service

ST. JAMES, TAICHUNG

by
Rev. Stephen Harrop

I came from England, my native land, arriving in Taiwan on the evening of 21 October, so I have been here getting on two months now. I came to be chaplain to the English-speaking congregation at St. James Episcopal Church in Taichung. The English speaking congregation here is, at present, very small. It is my hope and prayer that we can grow in numbers and, thereby, in strength and standing.

We are moving quickly toward Christmas. This provides us an opportunity to advertise our Christmas program to the English speaking community in the Taichung area.

Spending Christmas in a sub-tropical area is not new to me, as I worked for St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong for 4 years. The absence of cold and frost at Christmas does feel strange to a European, however. Last Christmas Day, as deputy chaplain in Her Majesty's prison, Brixton, in South London, I participated in a Christmas Day Eucharist in the Chapel of the resurrection in the prison with the Bishop of Croyden. So, as you can see, this Christmas will

be very different from last.

We are looking forward to several Christmas services and celebrations here.

Thursday, 11 December - Kindergarten Christmas Celebration - Taichung Cultural Center

Sunday, 21 December - Joint Chinese/English service with a shared "pot luck" lunch.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 - Chinese Service, followed by a party with karaoke and dancing.

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 - AM English Holy Communion Service.

Sunday, December 28 - Christmas carols in the English language Communion service.

Christmas is an opportunity to invite members of the English speaking community to church, and to this end, I have faxed our Christmas programme to both the China News and the China Post, as well as to Compass Magazine, which is the publication of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taichung. The birth of Jesus Christ gives us all hope for God's world, and is the best reason for people of all races to gather together to celebrate this wonderful event.

SCOTT-BRANAGANS IN AUSTRALIA

[Ed. Note: This a letter from Father Scott-Branagan who was English chaplain and Acting Rector of Good Shepherd Church to Bishop John Chien. The Scott-Branagans left Taiwan early in 1997.]

Rev. A. & Dr. B. Scott-Branagan
Lowena 85 Howey Street
Gisborne Victoria 3437
Australia

16 October, 1997

Dear John and Grace,

At last we are settled in our home which is 50 km north-west of Melbourne - not very far from S.SM. at Diggers Rest and from Sunbury. Gisbourne is a village with many retired people and professional people. We have a very comfortable house and a large garden which keeps us very active and gives us plenty of exercise. There are always plenty of colourful birds and sometimes koalas come very close to

the house. Yesterday a bog koala came and sat in a tree right above me while I was working.

Since we returned to Australia we have spoken at about 25 churches in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia - for the Australia Board of Missions, talking about Taiwan, of course. We visited David and Alison Cobbett while we were in Adelaide. David is recovering from his injuries caused when he was attacked earlier this year, but will need more surgery.

We were delighted to hear that you have ordained both Elizabeth and Peter and that they are both working together at Good Shepherd. I spoke to Elizabeth on the telephone last week.

How is Samuel Lin finding his new position as Dean? It will be far more challenging than Sinpu, but he did a good job at the college.

We are always eager to hear about the developments in Taiwan. As you know we really enjoyed our service in Good Shepherd and appreciated the experience of working with you and all the clergy in Taiwan. We miss all of you and the many friends we made there. We hope we can see you again sometime. If you come to Australia again , we would love to have you stay with us. This is a very quiet and peaceful place.

Next year, we shall visit our daughter in South Africa and then go on to England and Europe, and will be away for four months - from February to early June. In England I will assist my brother who is Vicar of Madeley near the border of Wales.

Please give our greetings to all our friends, especially the Friday group and Herbert Ma. When will the Prayer Book be published?

If anyone wants to write, we' ll be delighted to hear from them, and if they have e-mail, they can contact us on our service. Bronwyn is the one who deals with that. She sends her love to all and especially to Grace.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew